

Sub C/ 1. (Twice Amended) A multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoding/decoding method, including the steps of  
selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type; and  
encoding/decoding each signal block by using an excitation codebook having said selected excitation codebook identification.

B 2. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, including the steps of  
providing several sets of excitation codebooks;  
determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of excitation codebooks based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters;  
selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification in the determined set utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type; and  
encoding/decoding each signal block by using an excitation codebook from said determined set having said selected excitation codebook identification.

3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, including the steps of  
selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type;  
providing several sets of excitation codebooks;

b1  
determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of excitation codebooks based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters; and  
encoding/decoding each signal block by using an excitation codebook from said determined set having said selected excitation codebook identification.

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c2  
6. (Amended) The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein said deterministic selection procedure is defined by cyclically stepping through each excitation codebook identification in said sets of excitation codebooks.

b2  
7. (Amended) The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein said deterministic selection procedure is defined by randomly stepping through each excitation codebook identification in said sets of excitation codebooks.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said excitation codebooks are fixed excitation codebooks.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said excitation codebooks are algebraic excitation codebooks.

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Sub C3  
12. (Twice Amended) A multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoder/decoder, including  
an excitation codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation  
codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type;  
and  
means for encoding/decoding each signal block by using an excitation codebook having said  
selected excitation codebook identification.  
P2

13. (Twice Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, including  
several sets of excitation codebooks;  
a set selector for determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of excitation  
codebooks, based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters;  
an excitation codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation  
codebook identification in the determined set utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is  
independent of signal type; and  
means for encoding/decoding each signal block by using an excitation codebook from said  
determined set having said selected excitation codebook identification.

14. (Twice Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, including

an excitation codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type;

several sets of excitation codebooks;

a set selector for determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of excitation codebooks based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters;  
and

means for encoding/decoding each signal block by using an excitation codebook from said determined set having said selected codebook identification.

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~~515 CH~~ 15. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, 13 or 14, wherein said excitation codebook selector cyclically steps through each excitation codebook identification in said sets of excitation codebooks.

~~B3~~ 16. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, 13 or 14, wherein said excitation codebook selector randomly steps through each excitation codebook identification in said sets of excitation codebooks.

17. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, wherein said excitation codebooks are fixed codebooks.

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B4/ 18. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 17, wherein said excitation codebooks are algebraic excitation codebooks.

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C5  
B5 19. (Twice Amended) An excitation codebook selection method for multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoding/decoding, including the step of:  
selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type, said codebook identification identifying a particular excitation codebook.

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C6  
B6 20. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said deterministic selection procedure is defined by cyclically stepping through each excitation codebook identification in a set of excitation codebooks.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said deterministic selection procedure is defined by randomly stepping through each excitation codebook identification in a set of excitation codebooks.

Sub  
C7  
B7 22. (Twice Amended) A codebook selection apparatus for multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoding/decoding, including:  
an excitation codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type, said excitation codebook identification identifying a particular excitation codebook.